

Dear Members of the Human Services Committee of Connecticut General Assembly:

My name is Tyvonne Tricia Solomon-Mennes and I am a resident of Manchester. I am an immigrant. I am a mother of six children, comprised from a family of eight. In our family we have several children with various disabilities ranging from Kidney disorders to Autism and seizures.

I stand in support of S.B. 284: AN ACT INCREASING THE AGE FROM EIGHT TO EIGHTEEN YEARS FOR AN INCOME-ELIGIBLE PERSON TO OBTAIN MEDICAL ASSISTANCE REGARDLESS OF IMMIGRATION STATUS. Expanding access to HUSKY up to age 18 regardless of immigration status is an important step in ensuring our immigrant community has access to the healthcare we need. But our work doesn't end with expanding access up to age 18; we need to open access to HUSKY and healthcare to all immigrants of any age, including parents and adults.

I would like to use this platform and opportunity to share how the lack of Health Insurance affected my ability to live and experience freedom within this society many years ago. In 2014 I arrived here as a Police Constable from the Cayman Islands, I was diagnosed shortly after with High risk pregnancy conceived with an IUD in place. This would make my pregnancy High Risk, along with the fact that I had Blood Clotting Disorder (Protein S Deficiency), Hyperemesis Gravidarum (Vomitting excessively resulting in major weight loss and even death of pregnancy) that would enhance with pregnancy. I required blood thinners, antiemetics and many more medicines to aid some health with this pregnancy.

I was unable to attain insurance Husky, the other coverages provided were approximately 800.00 to 1000.00 dollars monthly along with having to purchase medications that amounted to \$1,400.00 per month. Due to this I was very stressed and my children who also needed certain medical items namely diapers for incontinence, would be at the mercy of the Medical Facilities. Every visit there was a surmounting fear of the questioning of payment, as you could be turned away and then if seen medical providers could proscribe meds that required you to purchase and when you were unable to it would be seen as if you were non-compliant with medical treatment. The need for blood thinners became paramount to live and it took a nurse seeking grants to provide this for me without this intervention I experienced more clots forming and the risk of experiencing a Pulmonary Embolus. Then I experienced a Slip and Fall when pregnant with my last child that caused injury to my spine, pelvis, hip and resulted in my inability to walk again without mobility devices. I was uninsured outside of Husky for the child and experienced, lack of medical care from 2017 through 2018. I would require, MRI's, CT Scans, Attendance to top class institutes Bone and Joint and due to not having insurance it was okay difficult, I would get allowed one day and when return for treatments such as injection to

the spine I would get turn away. This would occur for many years rendering me unable to ever be a Police Constable again due to lack of intervening when the matter was acute. Having insurance would have allowed for me as a parent to not experience mental stress, segregation and mobile

disability for life.

I support S.B. 284 and I ask the committee to support and pass this legislation. Looking forward, I ask the committee to work towards opening access to all immigrants regardless of age.

Thank you for your time,

Tyvonnie Solomon-Mennes